



**IMPORTANT  
PHONE NUMBERS**

**Emergency - 911**

**Non-Emergency  
480-644-2211**

**Ramon Batista  
Chief of Police**

**Crime Prevention  
Officers:**

**Central Division  
Patty Gallagher  
480-644-2033**

**Fiesta Division  
Amy Sailors  
480-644-2539**

**Red Mountain Division  
Lindy Marino  
480-644-3921**

**Superstition  
Division  
Dawn Blake  
480-644-5014**



**www.mesaaz.gov/  
police**

# Mesa Police Department

## CRIME PREVENTION NEWS

**Partnering with our community to prevent and reduce crime**

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### New Ideas For Making Your Home Safer

Most burglaries are “crimes of opportunity” with the best prospects being those that allow the burglar to

- 1 - get in quietly,
- 2 - get out quickly, and
- 3 - get away unseen.

The homeowner's best chance of not becoming a victim is to prevent the burglar from being able to complete the “burglary cycle.”



products that close the garage door automatically after a set number of minutes, in case the homeowner drives off without closing it.

Door bells can now address the “unseen” person at the door by not only showing who is at the front door, but letting the homeowner talk with them.



long as they have access to the Internet. Video may be taped for evidence.

While new technology is great and has proven to be a great benefit in crime prevention, the homeowner still needs to rely on the old standards as back-up in case of power loss, either electrical or battery power.

**Easy ways to break the “Burglary Cycle”:**

**Get in Quietly** - dogs barking; leave no doors or gates open or unlocked. The harder they have to work to get in, the more noise they will make.

**Get out Quickly** - Don't leave money or valuables in plain site, etc.

**Get away Unseen** - The more noise the burglar makes, the longer it takes to get away and the more chance of being seen. Keep your landscaping trimmed with no dark recesses, so neighbors can see anyone leaving the property and the burglar has nowhere to hide.

**ENCOURAGE NEIGHBORS TO  
PARTICIPATE IN  
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

Homeowners are now being aided in their efforts to protect their property by new and affordable technology. While there are still companies that offer the whole spectrum of services, including off-site monitoring, new products have been introduced that allow the user to pick and choose items that not only fit their needs and their budget, but their level of expertise with internet-based technology as well. Any homeowner can find these products by looking on the Internet or going to a near-by home improvement store.

Getting in quietly can be difficult when there is either a dog barking or an Internet-based security alarm which not only sounds when disturbed, but can also have cameras to show who has activated them. In some cases the homeowner also has the ability to speak directly to the intruders, which also doesn't let them “get away unseen.”

New cameras and motion detectors need not be “hard-wired” any longer, which allows for the homeowner to use more of them and have easier placement.

Open garage doors are one of the easiest ways burglars gain “quick and quiet” access. There are now

With new Internet-based products, a homeowner can monitor their home no matter where they are, as

#### HOLIDAY TIPS!

**DON'T** carry large amounts of cash when shopping. If you carry a purse, wear it across your body. Keep your wallet or cash in a front pocket.

**DON'T** store packages in the car. Place them in the trunk, out of sight.

**DON'T** leave your vehicle unlocked, even in the driveway or in front of your house.

**DON'T** leave anything of value in your vehicle. If you must leave something in your vehicle, keep it out of sight.





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[mesaaz.gov](http://mesaaz.gov)

To Our Mesa Community,

As the holidays approach, I wanted to take a moment to wish you a joyful and safe holiday season. I have also been asked to introduce myself and to share my vision for the future.

My name is Ramon Batista, and I served with the Tucson Police Department for 31 years. I began my career as a patrol officer, working directly with the citizens of Arizona and serving my community for more than a decade. I had a wide breadth of experience during my tenure, and spent my last three years as the Assistant Chief. I am humbled and greatly honored to now serve as the Chief of Police for our wonderful City of Mesa and its residents.

I believe in community policing, and I believe in full service policing. We are going to continue the fine work that the men and women of Mesa PD have already been doing, and the type of engagement, transparency, and relationship building that builds community.

We would like to invite you to be our community policing partners, working with us so that we can serve you best. We want to make sure as we continue forward to do everything possible to involve our community. The relationship we have with our community is vital, and building trust in the community is paramount to me. You are the eyes and ears of our community, and know your neighborhoods as well, if not better, than even the best beat officer. If you see something, we encourage you to report it.

We also would like to invite you to be part of our online presence. By joining our Mesa Police Facebook page, Twitter page and Crime Blog, you can remain up-to-date on crime trends, special events, help identify suspects, learn crime prevention statistics and tips, and see positive stories occurring in our community. We love hearing from you as well, whether it be comments, positive stories or crime tips! Additionally, "Nextdoor" is a private social network for neighborhoods, which we are also excited about and encourage our community partners to use. It is a great way to stay in the know about what's occurring in your specific neighborhood and provides an opportunity to learn about recent criminal activity in your area. Some additional ways you can get involved in your community are through your neighborhood Block Watch and Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.).

Most importantly, we want to reach out to *everyone*, regardless of our similarities or differences, to earn your trust. My goal is to be everyone's police chief. The community's Police Chief. I am eager to work together.

My Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season,

Chief Ramon Batista

- Never give your credit card number over the telephone to anyone when you did not initiate the call. Be sure that you are dealing with a reputable company when ordering merchandise over the telephone.



- If you are shopping online, be sure to use a secure browser, keep your personal information private and shop with companies you know are reputable. Do not give out your Social Security number, e-mail address, telephone number, or address unless you know who is collecting the information, why they are collecting it and how they will use it. Save all transaction information, including e-mails and records of any phone conversations.

- Don't "flash" large amounts of money in public. You never know who is watching! Also, spread your money around in different pockets. That way a pickpocket can't clean you out in one fell swoop.

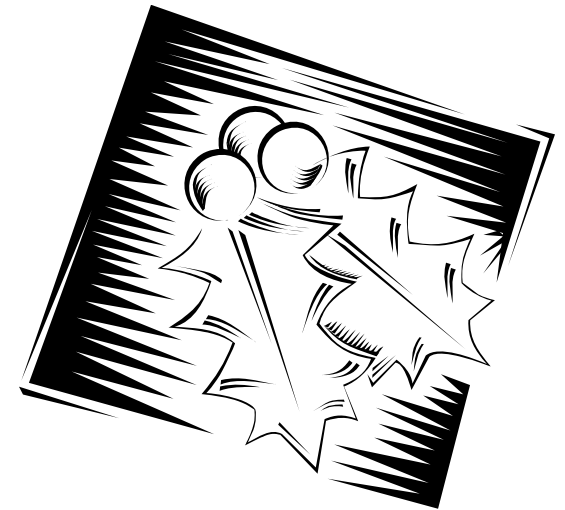


- If you go to an automatic teller machine, try to go during the daylight hours. If you must go at night, pick a machine that is well-lighted and visible to passing traffic, or inside a grocery or convenience store. If anyone is lurking near the machine, pass it up and find another.
- When dining out valet parking is nice, but don't be too lax. Don't leave any personal items in your vehicle and never leave your house key with the attendant.

Just by using a little planning and some good common sense, most holiday crimes can be avoided.



# Holiday Safety Tips



Mesa Police Department  
[www.mesaaz.gov/police](http://www.mesaaz.gov/police)

**T**is the season to be jolly, but it is also the season to be wary of burglars, thieves, pickpockets, and other holiday grinchers. Nothing can ruin the holiday spirit faster than becoming the victim of a crime.

- Remember, whether you are leaving the house to go shopping, or out for an evening of parties, lock your doors and windows! Don't leave the drapes open with your presents in plain view. Presents displayed around your tree can be a pretty sight, but can also be quite tempting to burglars. It's better to scatter the gifts around the house, in closets or cupboards, where they can't be easily seen.



- If you choose to have a live tree, make sure it is always properly watered. Never leave tree lights on when no one is at home. Remember, ornaments can also burn.



- If you are leaving town for the holidays, make sure your home appears occupied. Leave inside and outside lights on timers and have your neighbors pick up newspapers, mail, and take flyers off your door. Ask neighbors to park in your driveway. Put a timer on a talk radio station for several hours a day.



- Don't put out empty boxes advertising your new purchases (DVRs, stereos, gaming systems, etc.). Break the boxes down and deposit them in your trash, recycle bin or a dumpster away from your home.
- When you're shopping, use the trunk of your car to keep your packages out of sight. Keep your car locked at all times. Be sure and make several trips to your car to deposit packages in the trunk. Don't allow yourself to become so burdened down with packages that you become a tempting target. When walking through parking lots be sure



that you are aware of your surroundings. Walk with authority. Don't look like a victim!

- If you have a garage door opener, do not leave the control openly displayed in your car. Keep the door leading from your house to your garage locked. Try not to leave your garage door open at any time.
- Be aware that thieves and pickpockets also do some of their biggest business during the holiday season. Ladies, don't dangle your handbag from your shoulder. You are creating a perfect setup for a purse-snatcher. Instead, keep your purse tucked tightly under your arm. Better yet, don't even carry a purse.
- Place your checkbook, cash, or credit cards in your front pockets. Avoid carrying your checkbook, cash, and credit cards all together in one wallet, because if a thief gets the whole package together, they can cash checks with your identification and run up a large credit card bill in a short amount of time.



## ***Protect Your Business This Holiday Season***

Take precautions to help protect you, your employees and your business from becoming a victim this holiday season.

For more information, if you would like a security survey, and/or a presentation to your employees on workplace violence, robbery prevention, shoplifting prevention, or any other topic you feel would be worthwhile, please visit <http://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/police/divisions/crime-prevention> to find your crime prevention officer. Crime prevention officers are assigned to each district station.



### **Crime Prevention Officers**

Fiesta Station  
480-644-2539

Central Station  
480-644-2033

Red Mountain Station  
480-644-3921

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## ***Holiday Safety for Businesses***





*In preparation for the upcoming holiday season, the Mesa Police Department Crime Prevention Officers would like to provide you with some valuable information to protect your business, supplies, and employees.*

*Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us using the numbers on the back of this brochure.*

**Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!**



## ***Tips for Protecting Merchandise***

- **Control Access** by allowing only one door to be open for customers. It is recommended that all back doors remain locked from the outside. Use a decorative rope or string to help prevent use of these exits except for emergencies.
- **Limit Access** to areas that are off limits to customers. Use signs indicating “Employees Only” for back rooms and storage areas.
- **Control Activity** in your store. Deter shoppers from entering your business with open bags, large totes, etc. Consider using signage at the entrances that indicate no open bags or large bags are allowed. Give customers an option to tape their bag closed with decorative tape that you provide. It is not recommended that you store bags for your customers.
- **Maintain Visibility** throughout the store. Make sure you can see the front door, that there are no “hidden areas” and your shelves are positioned so that someone cannot hide.

- **Determine what your employee signal will be.** This is a code word or name that indicates immediate assistance is needed or that the police need to be called. It can be used over the intercom, in person, or by word of mouth. Make sure all employees know the word or name and what it means.
- **Additional Staff** during the holiday season provides additional control and monitoring of shoppers. Greeters should be at all entry/exit points, making eye contact with all customers. Small talk is also a deterrent for criminal activity.
- **Don’t Stereotype.** Anyone can shoplift or steal from you.
- **Don’t leave the cash register or money unattended.** Make frequent bank drops using different employees and different routes. Two people are safer than one.
- **Don’t count money** or move money while customers are still in the store.
- **Increase visibility** from the outside looking in.

